

Appl. No. : 10/005,710
Filed : November 8, 2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for indicating presence or possibility of cardiovascular disease in a patient, comprising the steps of:

a) determining a level of antibodies in a saliva sample from said patient, wherein said antibodies are able to bind to ~~an autoantigen~~ a group of autoantigens or their corresponding recombinant antigen or synthetic peptide for cardiovascular disease, wherein the autoantigen group of autoantigens for cardiovascular disease is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ comprises myosin, oxidized LDL, heat shock protein-60, β -2-glycoprotein-1, platelet glycoprotein, and C1q immune complexes; and

b) comparing the level of antibodies determined in step a) with normal levels of said antibodies in saliva, wherein

normal levels of autoantigen antibodies for cardiovascular disease indicate optimal conditions; and

higher than normal levels of autoantigen antibodies for cardiovascular disease indicate presence or possibility of cardiovascular disease.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein determining the level of antibodies in steps a) and b) is accomplished using an immunoassay.

4. (Original) The method according to Claim 3, wherein the immunoassay is an ELISA test.

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the antibodies in steps a) and b) is measured from saliva.

6. (Original) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the measured antibodies are IgA.